UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-SIXTH SESSION

Official Records

FIFTH COMMITTEE
58th meeting
held on
Wednesday, 12 February 1992
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 58th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MUNTASSER (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 18: APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS

(k) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM 146: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS ADVANCE MISSION IN CAMBODIA (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 148: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRANSITIONAL AUTHORITY IN CAMBODIA

This record is subject to correction.
Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, Room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

92-55297 5617S (E)

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.5/46/SR.58
14 February 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 18: APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS

(k) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (A/46/234; A/C.5/46/84)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that the General Assembly needed to appoint two persons to fill vacancies that would arise in the membership of the International Civil Service Commission as a result of the resignations of two members whose terms of office were due to expire on 31 December 1993. The Secretary-General had indicated that Ms. Lucretia Myers (United States of America) and Mr. Mario Bettati (France) had been nominated by their respective Governments for appointment. Since the number of candidates corresponded to the number of vacancies, he would take it that the Committee wished to dispense with a secret ballot and recommend the appointments by acclamation.

2. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 146: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS ADVANCE MISSION IN CAMBODIA (continued) (A/46/855 and A/46/873)

AGENDA ITEM 148: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRANSITIONAL AUTHORITY IN CAMBODIA (A/46/235/Add.1 and A/46/874)

3. Mr. FORAN (Acting Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management) said that the General Assembly had authorized an appropriation of $14,319,200 gross in respect of the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) for the period 1 November 1991 to 30 April 1992, and that the Security Council had approved an expansion of the mandate of UNAMIC to enable it to provide assistance in mine clearing before the establishment of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). Should UNAMIC's mandate be extended beyond April 1992, the General Assembly had authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments at a rate not exceeding $2,070,000 gross per month. The Secretary-General was submitting additional requirements in respect of UNAMIC relating to its expanded responsibilities for the period 15 January to 30 April 1992, and was also seeking commitment authority for the continued operation of UNAMIC, subject to the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee, should UNAMIC's mandate be continued by the Security Council beyond the end of April.

4. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 718 (1991), the Secretary-General was preparing an implementation plan for UNTAC. Once the Council had approved the plan, the Secretary-General would submit detailed cost estimates to the General Assembly. For the reasons stated in the Secretary-General's report on the initial phase of the implementation plan (A/46/235/Add.1, para. 5), the Secretary-General was seeking an appropriation in advance of the finalization of the detailed cost estimates.

(Mr. Foran)

5. Because of the extensive and crucial role to be played by UNTAC, an effective presence would have to be established in all provinces of Cambodia, including remote areas. Given the deterioration in the country's infrastructure, such elements as housing, transport and communications would need to be put in place. The extreme complexity of the settlement and the size of the operation would present an unprecedented administrative and organizational challenge to the United Nations. There was a danger that undue delay could lead to unfavourable political developments as well as substantially increased financial costs.

6. The Secretariat was convinced that the international community, in its determination to see an end to the conflict in Cambodia, was fully cognizant of the financial costs which implementation of the political settlement entailed for the Organization. Although detailed cost estimates had yet to be elaborated, it was certain that the $200 million being requested to provide for pre-implementation goods and services would represent but a fraction of the total.

7. In addition to the need for commitment authority, there was also a need to ensure cash availability as soon as possible. Paragraph 4 of the Secretary-General's report (A/46/235/Add.1) should be read as meaning that in order for the $200 million requested to be made available immediately upon approval of the Secretary-General's report on the implementation plan, assessment letters would need to be transmitted to Member States as soon as possible after General Assembly approval of the advance of $200 million. Accordingly, it was being proposed that the General Assembly should take action now to provide an appropriation of $200 million covering the initial requirements for the first phase of UNTAC's deployment and the apportionment thereof. Once the appropriation and apportionment had been determined by the General Assembly, it was intended to issue assessments in accordance with the formula used for the financing of peace-keeping operations. While not guaranteeing that the amount would be available immediately upon approval of the Secretary-General's report, such a procedure would shorten the time-lag. A sufficient legal basis for United Nations activities in Cambodia was provided by Security Council resolution 718 (1991). The main objects of expenditure and estimated corresponding financial requirements were indicated in the Secretary-General's report (A/46/235/Add.1, para. 36). Care must be taken not to allow the logistical aspects of implementation prejudice the process.

8. The main considerations were logistics and efficiency. Failure to make the pre-implementation arrangements would make it virtually certain that it would not be possible to achieve a timely and effective emplacement of UNTAC. Equipment needed to be in place before the rainy season began in May, and failure to act would result in a delay of several months. The specific pre-implementation activities to be undertaken under the initial appropriation would depend on the findings of survey missions. The activities and their costs would be fully reported on to the Advisory Committee and the General Assembly in the overall cost estimates.

9. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee, while noting that normal procedures had not been followed with regard to the request for $200 million, had concluded that the exigencies of the situation - in particular, the previous endorsement of the Paris Agreements, the establishment of UNAMIC, the magnitude of the operation and the weather cycle - provided sufficient justification for the approach taken. Given the tentative and indicative nature of the information supplied to the Advisory Committee, it had not conducted the detailed scrutiny that a request of such magnitude would normally warrant, but had accepted that an amount of $200 million should be appropriated and apportioned. Nevertheless, the Advisory Committee had indicated a number of guidelines for the management and use of the $200 million. In that connection the Secretariat should have particular regard to the comments of the Advisory Committee in its report (A/46/874).

10. The General Assembly had appropriated an amount of $13,967,300 net for the operation of UNAMIC for the period 1 November 1991 to 30 April 1992, and the Secretary-General was now requesting additional funding in the light of the expanded scope of the operation. Some delays had been encountered in conducting the operation, in view of which there was a slight reduction in the amount proposed by the Secretary-General and concurred in by the Advisory Committee, which was recommending an additional amount of $19,257,000 gross ($19,204,000 net) to be appropriated and assessed. Given the likelihood that UNAMIC would have been merged into UNTAC by May 1992, the Advisory Committee considered it unnecessary to submit recommendations on additional requirements beyond 30 April 1992. If that development did not in fact take place, the Secretary-General would need to report further to the Advisory Committee and the General Assembly.

11. Mr. ANNAN (Controller) said that the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of UNAMIC (A/46/855) omitted to mention the voluntary contribution of New Zealand comprising travel for 20 mine awareness personnel to Cambodia, referred to in the report of the Advisory Committee (A/46/763, para. 5).

The meeting rose at 11.25 a.m.